

Appl. No. : **10/087,549**
Filed : **February 28, 2002**

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending. Claims 1, 7, 9, and 11 are presented for examination. Claims 2-6, 8, 10, and 12-15 have been withdrawn without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 7, 9 and 11 have been amended. Support for each of these amendments can be found in the claims as originally filed and throughout the specification. Accordingly, no new matter has been added to this application.

Objection to Declaration of Inventorship

The Examiner objects to the Declaration of Inventorship as defective. In particular, the Examiner asserts that the Declaration includes an uninitialed, undated alteration to an inventor's address. Applicants have diligently attempted to obtain a replacement Declaration of Inventorship, but have not been successful. As such, Applicants have filed a Petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.47(a) to File Declarations on Behalf of Nonsigning Inventors who Refuse to Sign or Cannot be Reached, a copy of which is enclosed herewith, and a Declaration in Support of the aforementioned Petition, a copy of which is also enclosed herewith.

In view of the foregoing submission, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner hold any objections to the Declaration of Inventorship in abeyance pending the decision on the above-referenced petition.

Objection to Abstract

The Examiner objects to the Abstract of the Disclosure. In particular, the Examiner asserts that the Abstract exceeds 150 words. Applicants have amended the Abstract of the Disclosure so that it is now less than 150 words. Accordingly, Applicants request that the Examiner withdraw this objection.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objects to claims 7, 9, and 11 as including a typographical informality. Claims 7, 9, and 11 have each been amended to correct this informality. As such, Applications request that the Examiner withdraw the objection to claims 7, 9 and 11.

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Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

The Examiner rejects claims 1, 7, 9 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as indefinite. Applicants maintain that claims 1, 7, 9 and 11 are definite as originally written, however, to expedite the allowance of the instant application Applicants have amended claims 1, 7, 9 and 11. Applicants submit that these claim amendments adequately address each of the claim rejections recited in the instant office Action. As such, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 1, 7, 9 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that all outstanding issues in this case have been resolved and that the present claims are in condition for allowance. Nevertheless, if any undeveloped issues remain or if any issues require clarification, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below in order to expedite the resolution of such issues.

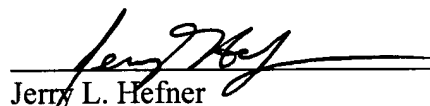
No fees are believed due at this time; however, if fees are deemed necessary, please apply any credits or charges, including any fee for an extension of time, to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: October 27, 2004

By: _____


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